

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being cancelled.

Claim 1 is currently being amended.

No claims are currently being added.

This amendment and reply amends a claim in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-4 and 7-15 are pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication in the final Office Action that claim 3 is allowed.

Claim Rejections – Prior Art:

In the Office Action, claims 1-2, 4-10 and 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipate by U.S. Patent No. 5,978,211 to Hong; and claims 7-10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hong in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0231460 to Moscovitch; and claims 11-13 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hong in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,353, 006 to Moscovitch. These rejections are traversed with respect to the presently pending claims 1, 2, 4 and 7-15 under rejection, for at least the reasons given below.

Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the plurality of connectors are disposed in a vertical, columnar arrangement on the column. See, for example, the disposition of connectors 18 as shown in Figure 1 of the drawings.

Now, turning to Hong, while Figure 3 of Hong shows two connectors 23a, 23b provided on a side surface of a column 21, the two connectors 23a, 23b are disposed in a horizontal, row arrangement on the column 21.

Accordingly, claim 1 is not anticipated by Hong. It is also that neither of the two Moscovitch references rectifies the above-mentioned deficiencies of Hong, and thus all of the presently pending claims under rejection are patentable over the art cited in the Office Action.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the final Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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